



Jay Dardenne
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Dear Friend,

As the 2008 national election rapidly approaches, I am writing to invite you to participate in a unique opportunity that will be of great benefit to your students and the State of Louisiana. On Oct. 30, 2008, students across the nation will learn about the democratic process when they cast their votes in the National Student/Parent Mock Election, a non-partisan, non-profit voter education program. We are hoping to involve your parish in this hands-on learning experience under the guidance of your school district and with the support of my office and Cox Communications.

Regards,

Jay Dardenne
Secretary of State

GeauxVote Smart! K-12 Mock Election Curriculum

GeauxVote Smart! has all the materials you need to make Election 2008 teachable, relevant and exciting for your students. Our standards-based, K-12 educational materials

- Build student knowledge and skills
- Connect classroom learning to current events.
- Increase the civic engagement of students

Curriculum designed by
Louisiana's Old State Capitol
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Presidential Mock Election 2008



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mock Election and who is conducting this project?

A Mock Election is a process by which students get to vote on their favorite candidates without having their vote count in the “official election.” In our Mock Election, Louisiana’s students will get to vote for a presidential candidate and have their votes tallied with other students across the nation. The Secretary of State’s Office, in conjunction with Cox Communications and the National Student/Parent Mock Election, are planning the election.

What is the National Student/Parent Mock Election?

The National Student/Parent Mock Election is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that makes students aware of the power of their ballot by actively involving them in a full-fledged campaign and national election. More than 40 million people have participated since the project began in 1980.

Why should I encourage students to participate in the program?

This is a fantastic educational opportunity for the students. It gives them a vested interest in who is elected president, and it stokes interest in the voting process at an early age.

Additionally, Cox Communications is giving away a computer. All participating schools will be entered in the drawing.

How do schools register to participate in the program?

Participating schools should sign up online at www.nationalmockelection.org and click on the Enroll Now button in the upper left corner of the Web page. Schools may also go to the Secretary of State’s Web site (www.GeauxVote.com) where there is a link to the online enrollment form.

When is the deadline for registering?

Oct. 20, 2008, is the deadline to register but we strongly encourage schools to register as early as possible. Registering early gives schools more time to plan and conduct their election.

What is the next step once I have enrolled my school in the program?

You will be sent a unique PIN for each student to be used on Election Day.

How do you recommend organizing the election for our school?

Your school may choose to elect a Registrar and Clerk for the election. The offices can be selected by a vote of the student council or the entire student body.

The Registrar will be in charge of the student list (i.e. the voter roll) and PIN. They will make sure that each student is assigned a PIN and that each student only votes once.

The Clerk will be in charge of conducting the election. On the day of the election, students will be sent to their computer lab or library to access the computers. Students can be sent alphabetically or by class. The election can be conducted all on one day or over several days.

Your school may also choose to have the duties of the Registrar and Clerk conducted by a member of the faculty. This might be a particularly good idea for middle and elementary school students.

What equipment is needed to vote?

At least one computer with Internet access is needed to participate in the voting process.

How do the students vote?

Once seated at a computer (i.e. voting booth), each student will logon to the Web site, enter their unique PIN, and cast their ballot for the election.

When can the students vote?

Once you have received the PINs for your students, they may vote at any time from Oct. 20 to Oct. 30. This will give you an opportunity to pick a day (or multiple days) that works best for your school.

How long should the voting process take?

Based on private elections conducted by the Secretary of State’s Outreach Division, the voting process should take roughly 30 to 45 seconds per student.

Important Dates

- Oct. 20 —First Day of Voting**
- Oct. 20 —Registration Deadline**
- Oct. 30 —Last Day to Vote**
- Oct. 30 —Celebration Event**